



OLLI News in Wilmington

NOVEMBER 2019

OLLI Council Acts to Encourage Broader Membership

Martha Hays, Chair, Council

At its meeting in October, OLLI Council gave preliminary approval to changes to membership requirements. Going forward, all adults interested in advancing OLLI's mission will be welcome to join as members of OLLI-Wilmington, regardless of age.

Why change what has worked well for so long?

Our program is 40 years young, and we continue to strive to be a leader in lifelong learning. In recent years, we have received requests from people younger than 50 who were interested in teaching and learning, and who wanted to join our program. Specifically, the office has been fielding requests from disabled veterans who wanted to join OLLI-Wilmington.

Is this Permitted? Yes. Neither the Bernard Osher Foundation nor the University of Delaware impose minimum age requirements. Although many OLLI programs nationwide do impose minimum age

requirements, there are other OLLI programs that do not.

How will this change our environment? We don't expect that there will be any material change to the composition of our members. We will still promote OLLI to older adults, but any adult who has an interest in lifelong learning in a collegial setting may join our program. We have a rich history of members who have a passion for learning and volunteering, and are good stewards and ambassadors for our program. We look forward to welcoming new members who will continue this legacy.

Are there any other benefits to this change?

Yes! This action is consistent with our goals of diversity, inclusion, as well as a strong and vital membership.

Options for Year-End Giving to OLLI-W

Alec Thornton, Associate Director of Annual Giving, UD

With the end of the calendar year approaching, there are many tax scenarios to consider that may impact your charitable giving. Should you be considering a gift to OLLI-W, we encourage you to have a conversation with your tax and financial advisors to determine what course of action is best for your personal situation.

Making a gift of stock:

If you would like to transfer stock to benefit OLLI-W, please call the University of Delaware Development Office at 866-535-4504.

Over 70½?

See p. 2 for qualified charitable donations and required minimum distributions from IRAs.

Additional gift methods:

Should you wish to make a gift or pledge payment to OLLI-W, you may do so online, by mail or over the phone. Checks and envelopes must be dated/postmarked no later than December 31, 2019, for your contribution to process in calendar year 2019. Here are three easy ways to make your year-end contribution to OLLI-W:

- Give online at www.udel.edu/olliw
- Send a check payable to University of Delaware, with OLLI-W in the memo line, to 83 E. Main Street, 3rd Floor, Newark, DE 19716
- Call 302-831-2104 / 866-535-4504

If you have any questions, please call 866-535-4504 or contact annualgiving@udel.edu.

Lower Your Taxable Income and Support OLLI-W

Megan C. Cantalupo, Director of Estate Administration and Strategy, UD

OLLI-W members over the age of 70½ who must take a required minimum distribution (RMD) from an IRA in 2019 have the opportunity to donate such income on a pre-tax basis. That is, they can lower their 2019 taxable income by donating it rather than receiving it as income. Such a donation constitutes a **qualified charitable distribution (QCD)**.

A QCD is a direct transfer of funds from your IRA, payable to a qualified charity such as OLLI-W at the University of Delaware. Such transfers count toward satisfying an annual RMD up to \$100,000 and are excluded from taxable income. While QCDs are not deductible, they are an option for charitable giving even if claiming the standard deduction.

How to request a QCD:

Step One

Contact your IRA custodian and request that a check be mailed payable to the University of Delaware, a qualified 501c3 organization. Ask that "OLLI-Wilmington" be added to the memo line on the check. You may need the following information:

Legal Name: University of Delaware

Tax I.D. Number: 51-6000297

Incorporated In: Newark, DE

Mailing address:

University of Delaware, Development and Alumni Relations, 83 E. Main St., Newark, DE 19716

Step Two

Contact Nathana Jackson in UD's Office of Gift Planning at 302-831-6093 or ndlane@udel.edu. Tell her to expect a check from your IRA custodian. Give her the amount of the check and the name of your retirement plan, and explain that you wish to designate these funds to OLLI-W.

Questions? Contact Nathana Jackson and consult a professional tax advisor regarding your specific situation.



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DELAWARE

Create Your Legacy at OLLI

The **Osher Lifelong Learning Institute** celebrates those who include OLLI in their estate plans to provide support for future programming and membership for those who would otherwise not be able to attend classes.

The many deferred giving options to qualify for membership in the Osher Lifelong Learning Legacy Society include bequests, beneficiary designations in retirement plan and insurance plans, charitable gift annuities, and gifts of real estate among others.

Please note: Those who commit to a deferred gift by December 31, 2019 will become charter members of the legacy society. Contact Nathana Jackson in the Office of Gift Planning at 302-381-6093 or ndlane@udel.edu for information.



Socials Update Carolyn Stankiewicz

This semester we have already had two socials with delicious items such as cookies, cheese and fruit to eat. There have been sign-up sheets for the affinity groups. Members signed up for the six affinity groups. The singles affinity group has already met for dinner; a breakfast is scheduled for late November. The travel group is looking at a meet-up date to discuss possibilities

If you have signed up for any affinity group you are cordially invited and encouraged to sponsor an

event or meeting. The members of each affinity group can schedule an event by emailing each other.

Next Social
Wednesday
November 13
1:45 p.m.

Carol Bernard and Carolyn Stankiewicz are stepping down as co-chairs for the social committee after the November 13 gathering. Starting in 2020 we are delighted to announce the new chairs will be Gerri

Sanchez and Nancy Marra.

Hope to see you on Wednesday November 13!

A Glimpse at your Marketing Committee Projects Linda Kellogg

Behind the scenes, 17 volunteer members lead our year-round marketing support activities in co-operation with OLLI administrative personnel and UD Marketing.

We hand deliver over 2000 catalogs prior to each semester with the help of:

- One time volunteers
- Our devoted core of Ambassadors to 55+ communities who help us distribute catalogs and promote OLLI to their fellow residents.
- Our Library Owners, who link with 27 Delaware, Pennsylvania and New Jersey libraries.

Before each semester the Marketing Committee plans and hosts an Open House for your friends and the public. This event includes a building tour and active demonstration classes in music, art, yoga and more. Visitors are encouraged to feel at home, ask questions, register for classes and enjoy refreshments.

The committee is excited that our traditional Bring-A-Friend Week each semester has now expanded to Bring-A-Friend Anytime. To date, this semester, 31 guests have visited.

Our 2019-2020 Marketing Committee members are:

Bill Bareford, Tony Bosworth, Eric Brucker, Kris Cassar, J. Harry Feldman, Lenore Forman, Jim Fossler, Sid Hess, Steve Jacobson, Lee Kaser, Linda Kellogg, Joan Miller, Max Modell, Jeff Ostroff, Elaine O'Toole, Boyd Sorenson, and Phil Weinberg. Karen Ingram and Jack Ling from Diversity/Inclusion and Carol Hughes and Myriam Medinilla from Outreach often attend our meetings. Marketing operates under Vice Chair of Membership Ellen Goldstein with the tremendous support of OLLI Administrative Assistant Jenna Ford.

So, now you know more about us and that we volunteer and work on your behalf. We will always be happy to talk with you and welcome your ideas and suggestions. A Marketing Committee mailbox is located in the lobby so that you can contact us that way.

Please plan to help with the next catalog delivery starting about Dec 16 to sites on your travel routes. Think of friends you can bring any time and please mark your calendar for the next Open House on January 7, 2020, from 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Ideas about Improving OLLI?

Leave your suggestions in the box outside the Reading Room. Include your name and contact information and someone will get back to you.



Vocal Music Programs at Osher Lifelong Learning in Wilmington

Lee Kaser

Vocal music programs at OLLI began almost 40 years ago. We have performance courses suited to both highly skilled singers and amateurs who simply enjoy singing. All are very important to us. In recent years, courses in singing skills have been added. For this article, I want to focus on our highest level of vocal music, where there are three mixed groups. These are the OLLI Chorus, about 60 voices; the Chamber Choir, around 25 voices; and the Madrigal Singers, around 20 voices. All three have been led and taught by outstanding music educators. Many members have sung in choirs and choruses for most of their lives, so their music is always excellent, and they learn and perform demanding selections, mostly SATB (soprano, alto, tenor and bass). The Chorus ends each OLLI semester with a formal concert in Room 105, while the Chamber Choir and the Madrigal Singers perform in regular lobby concerts. All three groups perform in outside venues. All three want OLLI members who sing to consider joining. Here are a few facts about each of these groups:

OLLI Chorus: Founded by Sarah Goldstein in 1991, Chorus sings selections come from many genres by well-known composers. Classical pieces, patriotic songs, Christmas and Hanukkah music and African-American spirituals have often been performed. Among the popular classes of music, the May 2019 concert highlighted selections from Mel Brooks' *The Producers*; many other Broadway musical songs have been featured, as well. The Chorus has had four leaders over its history. Marilyn Haas replaced retiring Sarah Goldstein in 2001, and the chorus gave a concert in 2009 for Sarah to celebrate her 102nd birthday, highlighting the belief that performing music lengthens a person's life. Marilyn was followed by Henry Chisholm in 2009, then Janet Miller since 2014. Each chooses 10 to 15 new selections each semester. Chorus accompanists have always been highly skilled professionals,



Lee Kaser, Holiday Concert, 2015

notably Marian Chau for many years. Michael Bareham currently holds the position. Soloists, brass, strings and percussion instruments from the Chorus or other OLLI musical groups often participate.

OLLI Chamber Choir: Founded in 2008 by director Dana Ulery, the Chamber Choir is known for its inspiring and engaging programming with themes such as "Chamber Choir Sings the Blues" (including "Birth of the Blues" and "Walking in Memphis"), "Christmas with Johann and John: Carols by J.S. Bach and John Rutter," and this semester's theme "Let's Dance" (with "Dancing Queen" and "Charleston"). The ensemble includes accompanist Bill Fellner on piano, Carroll Humphrey on bass, Gretchen Cox on flute, and Marje Schindler as percussionist. Brian Hanson is the assistant director of the Chamber Choir.

OLLI Madrigal Singers: Founded in 2010 by George Bayley, this group performs works by leading composers and others, mostly from the 16th to 18th centuries, such as Morley, Weelkes and Di Lasso, without accompaniment in the a capella tradition of European madrigal singing groups. After George died in 2016, Margaret Love, the assistant conductor, took over to lead and inspire the members. The group joins OLLI instrumental groups in concerts and often sings in languages such as early English, Italian, French or German.

Whether you are tempted to join one of these, another ensemble, or remain an appreciative audience member, you're sure to enjoy yourself with all the choral programs OLLI offers.



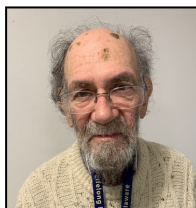
OLLI Chorus, Sondheim Moment, May 2019

Volunteer Spotlight Jean Youkers

"Volunteer Spotlight" is a new column that will recognize outstanding volunteers in each issue of the OLLI-W newsletter. In "Spotlight," individual member volunteers will be featured with OLLI-W contributions, personal history, background and motivation to volunteer. We all know someone special who should be in the "Volunteer Spotlight" and nominations are open. Just make your suggestions and place a note with your name in the Volunteer Development and Engagement lobby box.

Bob Ehrlich

Bob is featured as a Spotlight volunteer because of his multiple contributions to OLLI over more than two decades, including 14 years as the editor of the monthly OLLI-W newsletter. He has worn many hats, including that of instructor, Council member, computer guru and active participant on numerous committees.



Bob grew up in Long Island. He earned a PhD in physics from Rutgers University and became a biochemistry researcher at the University of Delaware. He is married to Marion Ehrlich and has one daughter. His main interests are history, travel and current events. He has taught classes on the history of Britain, India and Ireland.

Bob's volunteer role began in 1998 when he saw an ad on the OLLI bulletin board for someone to do word processing. As technology progressed and computer classes came to OLLI, Bob was encouraged to teach. He became chair of the Word Processing and "This Week" Committees and has participated on many committees since, including the Curriculum Committee. He served on Council for five years. Bob's kindness and patience are obvious as he teaches, helps with computers and edits and publishes the OLLI Newsletter.

Of his 40-plus semesters as a volunteer instructor, Bob says he is driven by curiosity and the challenge of problem-solving. He spends at least four days each week at OLLI, taking classes, teaching and working on his other volunteer projects. Besides the connection and networking with OLLI members, Bob says volunteering has provided him with "new perspectives." The more he volunteered, the more he has learned about how things work – truly lifelong learning.

Bobbette Mason

Bobbette was selected for her significant volunteer contributions, including teaching "Connections" for more than 10 years and serving on the Volunteer Development Committee, Council and many other areas at OLLI. She has been a member for 17 years.



A native of Long Island, Bobbette majored in biology at St. Lawrence University, with a minor in chemistry. She was married to her late husband for over 65 years and has two sons and a daughter. Bobbette also has four grandchildren and a great-grandchild. She taught lower and middle school science for 27 years at Tower Hill School, where she developed a nationally recognized program on Native American Use of Plants. She retired in 1990. Among her interests is the world of nature, which led to work on programs for children at the Delaware Nature Society. She is a published poet who learned to write poetry at OLLI.

Bobbette's volunteer participation resulted from a desire to be a part of the OLLI community. "Retirement wasn't boring," she said. "It meant a promise." At OLLI, a volunteer is valued in a new way. "You can be unique" and part of the legacy that sustains OLLI. She believes this is an extraordinary place, where gifted people from industry, law, medicine and academia and those who have contributed to public service come to offer "themselves," sharing interests and knowledge for the joy of it.

"It has sustained me," she said.

This 92-year-old is the personification of enthusiasm. The joy she describes can be seen in her eyes. She sparkles. Bobbette believes there is magic at OLLI and her advice to potential members and volunteers is to "catch the magic and pass it on."

UD by the Sea: Words and Music Hilary Shade

This final installment about May's UD by the Sea shares a glimpse into the Words and Music track:

Our first session, "Hamilton: The Man and the Musical," was presented by Dan Pritchett, an OLLI/Dover instructor. Alexander Hamilton, the man, practiced law in NY, served in the Battle of Yorktown with Lafayette, was chosen as Secretary of the Treasury by Washington, helped with the election of Jefferson, and then died young in his famous duel with Aaron Burr. Hamilton's great love of words was woven into the songs of *Hamilton*, the musical. Dan explained a specific life event of Hamilton's before we listened to a song from the musical. After Dan's presentation, I better understand, and would very much enjoy seeing, the musical *Hamilton*.

Michael Gotch talked about developing his play *Minor Fantastical Kingdoms*. I was anxious to hear him since I have a season subscription to UD's REP theatre where Michael is a regular performer. Michael told us about his background, experiences, what led him to acting, and, how he became one of the four originals who started the resident company. In 2016 he had the inspiration for this play; he was upset with the political situation and was feeling the contemporary anxieties of what was happening in the world. Michael described the challenges with the play's set design, costumes, lighting, etc. He said "the writer hopes the audience will respond to the play the way you intend; so you need the set, costumes, lighting and sound to elicit the correct response."

"Great Songs by Great Lyricists" was presented by Gary Lippe of OLLI/Lewes. He told us about many

Broadway musicals and the famous lyricists behind them. Gary said, "Some plays just have something to sing." With each musical, he talked about the words and lyrics behind each special song, and also about the singers of those songs before he showed us a song from each musical. He talked about famous lyricists Herbert Kretzmer (*Les Misérables*), Oscar Hammerstein II (one of the most important book writers on Broadway), Sherman Edwards (*1776*) and Stephen Sondheim (*West Side Story*). Gary's talk was full of interesting details and so much information. It made me want to see many of the musicals again!

Our final session was "The Art of Programming" by David Amado, Director of the Delaware Symphony Orchestra. He talked about what goes into setting up programs for the orchestra and how each piece needs to talk to the others to make the greater piece. David said "One must create a cohesive concert that enriches audiences, challenges musicians and makes the art work move effectively." The art of programming is also about creating a balance between aesthetics, logistics and cost. David introduced us to a reference book by David Daniels, which is like a phone book of orchestral repertoire. We broke into groups to set up programs for a symphony concert. I now have a much better appreciation of what goes into a Symphony Orchestra performance.



Participants try their hand at orchestra programming

Remembering Bob Carter (1918-2019)

Bob was a founding member of the Academy of Lifelong Learning. The first semester, he joined the travel class which shared experiences and also planned trips for members. To keep the class going in spite of low initial enrollment, he served as co-instructor for six years. His own travels took him to over 135 countries and all seven continents. Although he stopped joining as a member, he still gave travel talks most semesters, using 35 mm slides. His last presentation in 2014 was about his journey to New Guinea to collect tribal art. He noted that the presentation had been discouraged in the past because of slides showing the scanty dress of highland native males.

Compiled by Robert Ehrlich from Bob Carter's obituary, oral communications from Walter Abath (previous editor) and Bob's short article on the travel class in the March 2005 Newsletter.

Off-Campus Programs

Joan Miller

This semester I had the good fortune to register for an off-campus course, Route 66, given by Bruce Morrissey at the Country House. It was a delightful experience.

Fall 2019 OLLI-W has offered courses in a variety of locations other than Arsht Hall. At Country House on Rt. 52, three miles north of Arsht Hall, two courses are offered — “Pompeii: Time Capsule of Roman Life” (instructor William Jones) and “Escape, On Route 66” (instructor Bruce Morrissey). Both courses are filled with OLLI members and Country House residents. It was delightful to meet new OLLI members from Country House many of whom had been members of OLLI in the past at Arsht Hall.

Route 66 was a journey back in time to the Mother of all roads. We explored Route 66: Learning the history, reading iconic literature related to the road, and watching classic videos. Many of the students have traveled Route 66 and are enjoying going back to remember their experiences on Route 66. I had traveled from St. Louis to California on Route 66 in the early 1970s.

The Country House staff was extremely welcoming. They provide plenty of parking, guided the class to the comfortable auditorium and invited class members to stay for lunch in their various restaurants. They even offered a seven-lunch meal ticket for \$35. We were also welcome to go to the café where lunch was a reasonable \$3.50 for soup and salad.

OLLI will offer courses again in the spring at the Country House. Hopefully OLLI members and Country House residents will enjoy the opportunity of taking courses off site.

Water

Judy Filipkowski “The Kale Lady”

The Eco-Team at OLLI has made great strides in discussing plastic straws and bags. They were successful in getting filtered water fountains. Now, what do you put that water into? Is it a reusable, non-plastic water bottle from home or a one-time use plastic water bottle that you are refilling?

The one-time use bottle has many disadvantages: they clog the landfill, they cost a lot more than filtered water from the tap, and the plastic can leach chemicals into that water. You also do not know how long that bottle has been in a storage facility.

So, get a good quality bottle, fill it up from your refrigerator which now usually has its own filter, or fill it up here at OLLI. There are Nalgene BPA-free plastic bottles, an insulated stainless steel Wave water bottle, a BPA free glass bottle by Lifefactory with a silicone sleeve and a Bobble Water Bottle with its own replaceable filter. These are available from Amazon and some local supermarkets and drug stores.

What is wrong with unfiltered tap water? Well, for one thing, it's full of chlorine and often antibiotics and hormones from pills dumped down the drain or toilet, as well as from animal runoff. Your city water system uses chlorine to kill bacteria but too much chlorinated water can lead to bladder cancer and perhaps colon cancer. The risk of asthma can be increased, especially in children. It can destroy cells and tissues. It can cause skin irritation. It also has a really strong odor and bad taste. (www.filterwater.com)

Why do we need water? Our body is 60 percent water and a five percent drop can cause a decrease of 25 percent in energy. We need water to move nutrients throughout our body, to aid in lubricating joints, to hydrate the skin and to remove water from the body. Without it we might feel fatigue, flu-like symptoms, constipation and kidney problems. A Seventh Day Adventists study discovered that those who drank five or more glasses a day had half the risk of heart disease, plus they were getting extra water by eating more than four fruits and vegetables a day.

Come join the Eco-Team on Thursdays at 2 p.m. in Room 225. Get involved in saving the planet with us.

Special Events Wednesdays

12:45 to 1:45 p.m. in Room 105 — Free and Open to Members

Ben Raphael and Joan Miller

We have been introducing the program at 12:40, and sometimes this does not take five minutes. To see the whole show, we suggest you be seated by 12:40. If you have to leave before the end of the program, please sit near the door so as few members as possible will be disturbed. Thank you!

November 13 — OLLI Orchestra, Allen Tweddle, Conductor

November 20 — OLLI Concert Band Concert, Paul Hess, Conductor

November 27 — NO Program, Thanksgiving holiday

December 4: — OLLI Chorus Concert, Janet Taylor Miller, Conductor

The OLLI Chorus will perform its fall program on Sunday, November 17 at 3 p.m. at the St. Paul's Lutheran Church at 701 South College Avenue, Newark, DE and again at OLLI during SEW. The program includes autumn pieces, songs about our country including "Distant Land" by John Rutter and "America, The Dream"

by Rollo Dilworth, songs of thanksgiving for our many gifts and freedoms, as well as two winter pieces, a Hanukkah song, and another Rutter piece titled, "I Wish You Christmas."

Both concerts are free. The conductor is Janet Miller and the piano accompanist is Mike Bareham. Hope to see you there!

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<http://www.oli.udel.edu/wilmington/newsletter/>

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Submittal deadline: Thursday, January 16, 2020

Issue date: Monday, February 10

Submit articles to rehrlich@udel.edu, or place in the editor's mailbox in the Lobby.

Friday Lecture Series

12:30 to 1:45 in Room 108

Free and Open to the Public

November 15 — Frontier Feminists: Game-Changing Women from America's Past Jeff Heller

November 22 — Poetry Reading and Book Signing:
Walking the Sunken Boards OLLI member, Jane Miller along with fellow poets Linda Blaskey, Gail Braune Comorat and Wendy Elizabeth Ingersoll.

Calendar 2019

Thurs., Fri., Nov. 28, 29 Thanksgiving, OLLI closed
Fri., Dec. 6 End of fall semester
Fri., Dec. 13 to Fri., Jan. 3 OLLI Closed

2020

January 7 Spring Open House
February 10 Start of spring semester
March 30 to April 3 Spring Break, OLLI closed
May 15 End of spring semester